

F-8-91

Ca. 1850-1941

Bowers-Barton Farm

Johnsville, Maryland

Private

The Bowers-Barton Farm is a group of 13 buildings and structures with a circa 1850 dwelling house, a 1903 bank barn, and numerous domestic and agricultural outbuildings, including a windmill, a log smokehouse, and a blacksmith shop. The variety and number of outbuildings and their high level of integrity make an excellent example of an evolving farm from the mid 19th to the mid 20th centuries.

F-8-91  
Bowers-Barton Farm  
Johnsville  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.  
Modern Period 1930-present A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Agriculture  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:  
Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/secondary structure/summer kitchen  
Domestic/secondary structure/dairy  
Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn  
Agriculture/Subsistence/agricultural outbuilding

Known Design Source: None

## 7.1 Description

The Bowers-Barton Farm is an agricultural complex composed of a frame and log dwelling house with vinyl siding and six associated frame and log domestic outbuildings and six agricultural outbuildings including a dated 1903 bank barn. The farm is located on the northeast side of Coppermine Road about two miles southwest of Johnsville, Maryland. Most of the buildings range in date from contemporary with the house to the early 1950's. A non-contributing metal shed is also included in the complex.

The house is a two-story, three-bay log dwelling with a center entrance and a one-story shed porch on the southwest and south elevations. A two-story frame rear ell was built in about 1890 according to the current owner. The 2/2 windows are flanked by working shutters. The gable roof is standing seam tin with interior end chimneys. The exterior covering of the house is vinyl over clapboards. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

### DOMESTIC OUTBUILDINGS:

Dairy: This is a frame, shed-roofed building with german siding located immediately northeast of the ell.

Windmill: The windmill is located immediately south of the dairy over the well. It is in operating condition although not in continuous use.

Summer kitchen: This is a two-story frame building which includes a wash house within the same structure. It has a standing seam tin roof with a brick interior chimney at the east gable end. A single door and window are on the south elevation. The siding is german. The summer kitchen is northeast of the windmill/well. Materials for the summer kitchen were brought from a neighboring farm.

Milkcan Sterilization Shed: This frame shed is located at the southeast corner of the summer kitchen. Its probable date of construction is about 1890. The siding is tongue and groove.

Chicken House: A frame, shed roofed structure with its windowed side facing southwest. It is located about 50 feet southeast of the house. The siding is tongue and groove.

Log Smokehouse: Located south of the chicken house, the smokehouse has vertical flush board siding and a corrugated metal roof. It is probably contemporary with the house.

### AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS:

Blacksmith shop: The 1 story frame blacksmith shop is located about 25 yards northeast from the domestic outbuildings. It has vertical flush board siding and a corrugated metal gable roof. It contains an anvil and a considerable amount of original materials and equipment, although not in use. It is

## 7.2 Description Continued

probably mid 19th century in date. Many of the buildings in the complex have hand-made hardware made in the shop.

Tractor shed: The shed-roofed concrete block shed with sliding doors is located at right angle to the blacksmith shop. The doors appear to date from the last quarter of the 19th century, while the shed is apparently early 20th century.

Corn crib: Adjoining the tractor shed on the southeast is a frame, pull-through double corn crib. With vertical siding and a standing seam roof, it is also dated in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Bank barn: The frame bank barn was built in 1903 to replace an earlier bank barn which stood north of the house. The foundation is stone and the vertical siding has painted "windows". In the gable is a 6/6 window and the owner's name and the year, 1961, that the farm was purchased from his father. The standing seam metal roof covers the original slate roof. Inside the barn are two cow feeding aisles and a separate horse stall section. On the southeast side is a fiberglass roofed loafing shed. An equipment and wagon shed with a corn crib is on the north end of the barn. A cistern is located near the southwest corner and a concrete silo near the northwest corner.

Hog shed: The frame hog shed with a concrete block wallow dated 1939 is located south of the barn.

Dairy barn: A 1951 concrete block dairy barn with a standing seam metal gambrel roof, an adjoining can storage building, and a concrete silo are located northeast of the bank barn.

Non-contributing outbuildings in the complex include a third concrete silo and a metal shed.

A spring house site was pointed out along the creek which runs north of the house. Only a few stones remain of the building, which deteriorated and was demolished in the early 20th century.

## 8.1 Significance

The Bowers-Barton Farm is a good example of a mid-19th century farm with additions in both domestic and agricultural outbuilding groups which illustrate changes in agricultural methods, and government requirements for farm operations producing market products. The separation of livestock mandated in the 1930's is clearly shown in the division of the barn and the 1939 hog shed. Although later than the period of significance, the 1951 dairy barn is a further example. Architecturally, the log smokehouse and log section of the dwelling house and the surviving summer kitchen illustrate the typical vernacular domestic construction methods and uses of rural dwellings in the second half of the 19th century.

The Bowers-Barton Farm was compared to the Walkersville Farm Park, an 1853 farm with a wide range of agricultural and domestic outbuildings. The 1903 barn at this farm, while not architecturally as fine or as old as the brick barn at Walkersville, is a good example for its period. The vinyl siding on the dwelling house is also a loss of integrity. However, the complete windmill, dairy, summer kitchen, log smokehouse, blacksmith shop and other buildings are at least equal in their educational quality. Since the Walkersville complex is being nominated to the National Register, the Bowers-Barton Farm may also be eligible.

The farm is shown on both the 1858 and 1873 maps as the farm of "D. Bowers". This was probably Daniel W. Bowers (1807-1900), who farmed several properties as a tenant farmer until purchasing the present farm in 1875. His son, Daniel A. Bowers, had the present bank barn built, and was known as a very successful farmer in the early 20th century. Title research should be done to identify earlier owners and help define a date of construction of the main house. Interior description also remains to be done at a later time.

Bowers-Barton Farm  
Frederick County

Survey No. F-8-91

9.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY (Continued):

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, Maryland,  
Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1979 reprint of 1910 original edition, p.  
1531-32.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bowers-Barton Farm

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 11602 Coppermine Road    not for publication

city, town Johnsville   X vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>X</u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>X</u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Austin A. Barton

street & number Rt. 2, Box 178 telephone no.:

city, town Union Bridge state and zip code Md. 21791

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-8-91

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 13

(Typed on separate sheet)



## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-8-91

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Ca. 1850–1941

**Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(Typed on separate sheet)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-8-91

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Woodsboro, Md. quad.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B 

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map 42, Parcel 116; complex located in southern section; exact boundaries not defined

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davisorganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date May, 1991street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

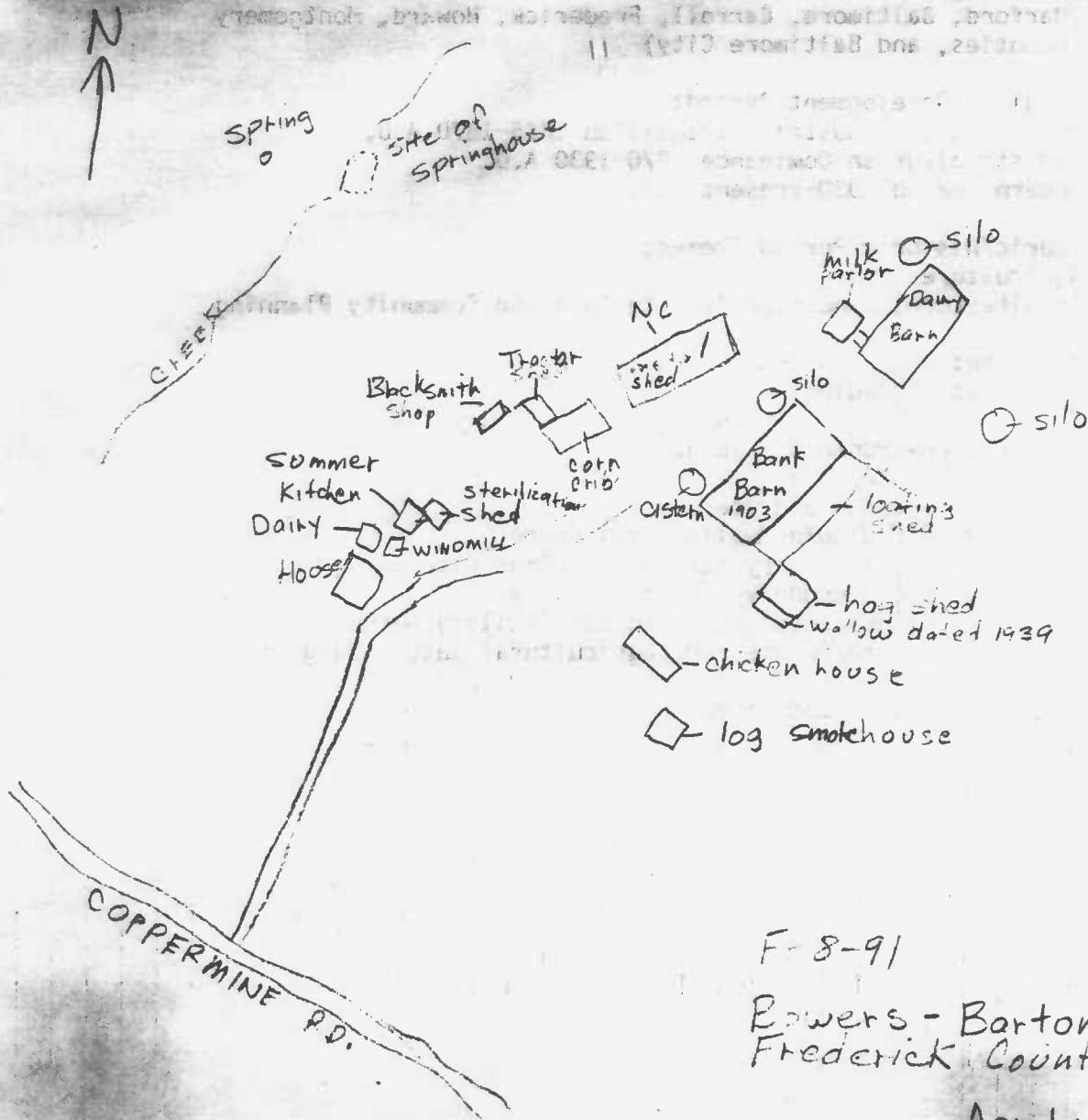
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

summer kitchen materials  
 from neighboring farm Fox  
 wagon shed near creek, originally  
 house ell 1890  
 house earlier  
 dairy barn 1951

barn: horse stalls  
 horse pens  
 2 feeding areas  
 for cows  
 slate roof under S.S. metal

Austen Barton 845-8321



F-8-91

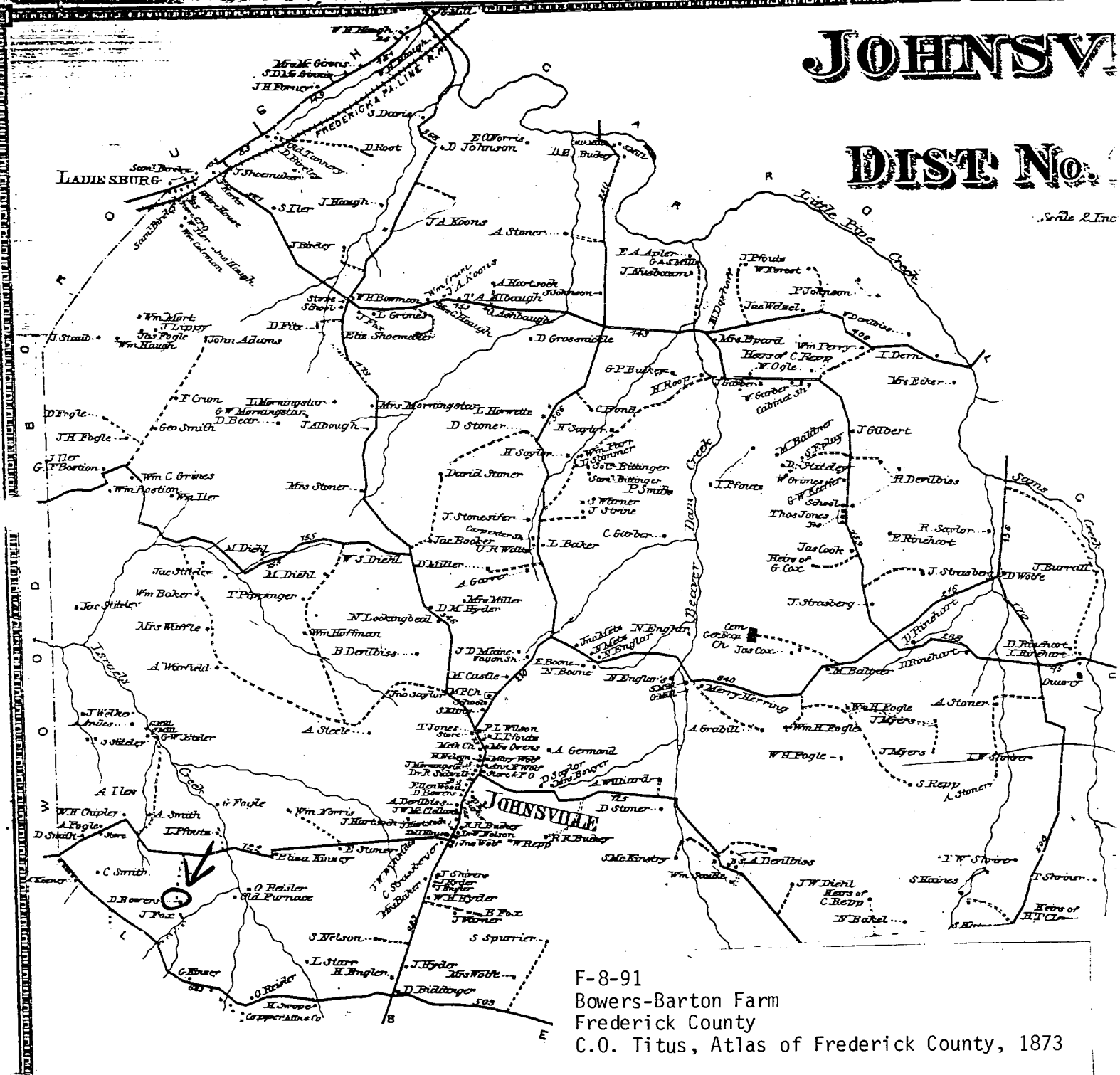
Bowers - Barton Farm  
 Frederick County

April 10, 1991  
 Janet Davis  
 Not to scale

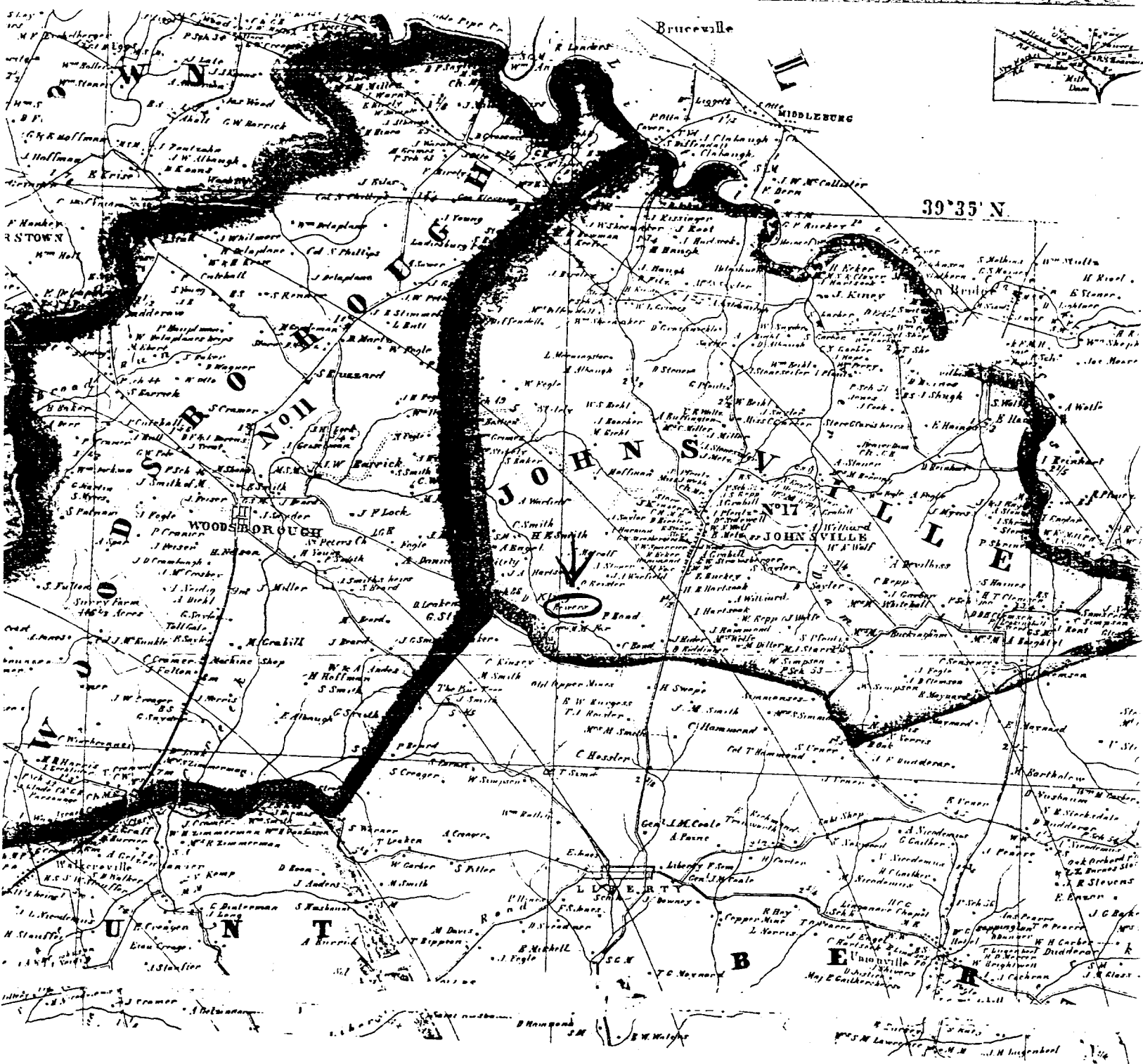
# JOHNSVILLE

## DIST No.

Scale 2 In.



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 Bowers-Barton Farm  
 Frederick County  
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873



F-8-91  
 Bowers-Barton Farm  
 Frederick County  
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858





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Bowers-Barton Farm

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis MD

House, southwest corner view

1/5





F-8-91

Bowers - Barton Farm

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD

Domestic outbuildings, view from  
South

2/5



F-8-91

Bowers - Barton Farm

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD

Blacksmith shop, tractor shed, corn crib (l to r)

3/5



F-8-91

Bowers - Barton Farm

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD

Bank barn, view from west

4/5



F-8-91

Bowers-Borton Farm

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Annapolis, MD

Dairy barn

5/5